



THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

FULTON BUILDING

16TH FLOOR

200 NORTH THIRD STREET

HARRISBURG, PA 17101

April, 2015

THOMAS G. SAYLOR
CHIEF JUSTICE

(717) 772-1599

Dear Counselor:

I write to express my personal appreciation for the contributions of financial support which you have provided to legal aid programs, as a component of your annual attorney registration fees.

I also join Pennsylvania Bar Association President Frank O'Connor in asking you, among the Commonwealth's nearly 70,000 registered attorneys, to make an additional personal commitment to provide *pro bono* service through direct representation to the poor and financial support of our legal aid programs. Both avenues of assistance further the important work of representing clients who have critical needs but cannot afford to retain private counsel.

Every Pennsylvanian deserves their day in court, even if the ability to pay for counsel is limited. To this end, Rule of Professional Conduct 6.1 indicates that all lawyers licensed in Pennsylvania should "render public interest legal service."

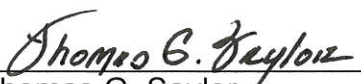
The Pennsylvania Supreme Court supports civil legal aid in a variety of ways, from funding a loan forgiveness program for legal services practitioners to honoring the work of *pro bono* volunteers. The Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, in partnership with regional legal aid providers and a network of specialty legal aid programs, helps provide the structure for legal assistance for the poor. Our law schools instill the values of *pro bono* service in the next generation of Pennsylvania lawyers.

In 2015, every lawyer in Pennsylvania will once again contribute to civil legal aid through the IOLTA portion of our annual licensing fee. However, it is the volunteer efforts – whether through directly representing clients or providing additional financial support – which most greatly impact those in need.

I encourage you to visit the website at www.palawhelp.org and register with the online legal community at www.paprobono.net to encounter a wide range of available opportunities for *pro bono* service. Please also consider taking advantage of *pro bono* videos which will soon be offered by the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, accompanied by free continuing legal education credits.

For those of you who already contribute your time and financial support, thank you, once again, for serving to reflect the best of our profession.

Sincerely,



Thomas G. Saylor
Chief Justice of Pennsylvania